

## **Washington State Conservation Commission CREP Maintenance Funding Policy**

Purpose: To set a uniform CREP Maintenance Funding Policy for all CREP projects located in the State of Washington.

Background: Maintenance is required for the life of the CREP contract. Washington State provides funding for maintenance activities for the first five years after the installation of plan components. Maintenance activities are necessary for riparian enhancement which includes establishment of new plantings of native trees and shrubs, control of competing weeds, livestock management and control of wildlife predation.

The State of Washington will authorize maintenance funding for CREP projects for five years, in accordance with the following policy:

- **The cost per acre will be the lesser of the formula cost or \$1,500/acre per west side district and \$1,000/acre per east side district.**
- ***CREP Districts shall adopt a maintenance policy including hold downs that reflect local conditions with maximums not to exceed state hold downs defined in Tables 1 and 2.***
- The maintenance plan and associated costs will be developed by a CREP technician reflective of the conservation plan in accordance with this policy. The plan will deal with the survival and establishment of seedlings by addressing the invasion of competing vegetation and livestock management.
- Maintenance costs for the 5-year maintenance period will be calculated for each individual contract by using the component hold downs in Tables 1 and 2 for components in the conservation plan and maintenance plan. A total 5-year cost for each individual contract will be determined using this formula and prorated for the number of acres in each contract.
- Maintenance will consist of maintenance applications spread out over the five-year period. Maintenance applications will be limited to the practices listed in Table 1 and Table 2.
- Maintenance costs will not exceed the component cost caps identified in Table 1 (west side) and Table 2 (east side), without local board approval.
- Additional funding beyond the maintenance activities (Tables 1 and 2) may be approved by the local conservation district board on a case-by-case basis when recommended by the CREP technician. The Conservation Commission will hold contingency funds for use in special or unique circumstances (Table 1 and 2). The CREP Program Manager will have final approval of any allocation for special or unique circumstances.
- Landowners who object to the use of herbicides, or where herbicides are prohibited, may choose another approved maintenance practice identified by NRCS. If costs exceed those identified in Table 1 and Table 2 (by the CREP technician) the landowner will make up the difference in costs.
- Ineligible costs are those practice components which are not identified in the maintenance plan or within this policy. i.e., equipment purchase, livestock purchase, equipment repair.
- This CREP Maintenance Policy will be reviewed and/or revised by the Conservation Commission upon petition to the WACD CREP Standing Committee.

**Table 1: District Hold Downs (West Side of Cascades)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost Cap per acre Application</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Spraying (tractor-strip spraying)	\$200.00	Cost range from \$100 to \$200 per acre depending on site access, cropland, pasture, existing vegetation, and soils
Backpack spraying	\$250.00	Cost range from \$150 to \$250 per acre depending on site access, existing vegetation, soils, herbicide used and invasives present
Tractor mowing	\$200.00	Cost range from \$75.00 to \$200.00 per acre depending on site access, cropland, pasture, existing vegetation, and soils
Mechanical (hand clearing)	\$250.00	Cost range from \$150 to \$250 per acre depending on site access, existing vegetation, soils, and invasives present
Tube Maintenance	.20/tube	This price covers general weeding and maintenance of tubes and not intended to cover the cost of flood repair which can be billed under unique
Replanting (FSA rates)	\$2.00/seedling	1-time replanting based on FSA rates and cost sharing with FSA at 50% not to replant more than 50% of the original stocking levels
Fencing (Repair FSA rate)	.10 lineal foot	
Beaver (fencing)	\$3.00/foot	Based on a 3' woven wire fence, with 5' T-posts every 12'. The bottom foot of the fence is buried in the ground 1' or bent and secured with rebar.
Beaver (trapping)	\$25.00/beaver	
Elk/Deer	Overstock	Overstock project initially to compensate for anticipated browsing.
Special or Unique circumstances	Local Board Determination	Include flood repair, irrigation, Elk Damage not compensated by overstocking,

Table 2 District Hold Downs (East-side of Cascades)

Fence	Average of \$0.10 per lineal foot/yr	Not to exceed 5 years
Tree planting	Average of \$2/tree	50% of trees planted eligible for replant. Eligible expenses include plant materials, planting, deer guards, sleeves and tarp repair.
Weed Control	Not to exceed average of \$100/ac/yr	Includes ATV spraying, spot spraying, mechanical control. Any combination of these items will not exceed the maximum. District should evaluate whether a hold down should be established for each category.
Mowing	\$30/acre	Not to exceed two mowings per year for 5 years.
Water Developments	20% of total cost of installation	5 year total
Tree Watering, Irrigation	\$1/tree/year	Not to exceed 3 years
Livestock Crossings	Actual Cost	Not to exceed 1 repair
Conservation Cover	Actual Cost not to exceed FSA rates	Not to exceed 1 reseeding
Special or Unique Circumstances	Local Board Determination	Includes, for e.g., flood repair and other circumstances beyond the control of the landowner and not anticipated by the technician and that the board feels warrants attention.